

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information storage medium comprising:
 - a rewritable area,
 - the rewritable area comprising:
 - 5 a user area to store user data; and
 - a defect management area to store defect management information used to manage defective areas on the rewritable area,
 - the defect management area comprising:
 - 10 first and second defect management reserved areas,
 - the first defect management reserved area being used to store the defect management information in an initial state, and
 - the second defect management reserved area being used to store the defect management information which is transited at a predetermined timing.
 2. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the rewritable area comprises a location information area to store location information indicating a location of an area that stores the latest defect management information.
 - 20 3. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the rewritable area comprises a plurality of location information areas to store location information indicating a location of an area that stores the latest defect management information, and
 - 25 each of location information areas store identical

location information.

4. A medium according to claim 2, wherein the location information area comprises first and second location information reserved areas,

5 the first location information reserved area stores the location information in an initial state, and

10 the second location information reserved area stores the location information which is transited at a predetermined timing.

5. A medium according to claim 2, wherein the rewritable area allows data rewrite accesses for respective error correction code blocks each of which is appended with double error correction codes, and

15 the location information stored in the location information area is repetitively recorded in a data size not more than one line in the error correction block.

20 6. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the rewritable area comprises first, second, third, and fourth defect management areas,

each of the first, second, third, and fourth defect management areas comprises first and second defect management reserved areas,

25 the first defect management reserved areas in the first, second, third, and fourth defect management areas store the defect management information in an

initial state,

the second defect management reserved areas in the first, second, third, and fourth defect management areas store the defect management information which is transited at a predetermined timing,

5 the rewritable area adjacently comprises the first defect management reserved areas contained in the first and second defect management areas,

the rewritable area adjacently comprises the second defect management reserved areas contained in the first and second defect management areas,

the rewritable area adjacently comprises the first defect management reserved areas contained in the third and fourth defect management areas, and

15 the rewritable area adjacently comprises the second defect management reserved areas contained in the third and fourth defect management areas.

7. An information reproduction apparatus for reproducing information from an information storage medium, which comprises a rewritable area, comprising:

20 an acquisition unit configured to acquire latest defect management information used to manage defective areas on the rewritable areas from one of a plurality of defect management reserved areas contained in a defect management area on the rewritable area; and

25 a reproduction unit configured to reproduce user data from a user area on the rewritable area on the

basis of the latest defect management information.

8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the rewritable area comprises a location information area to store location information indicating a location of the defect management reserved area that stores the latest defect management information, and

the acquisition unit acquires the location information from the location information area, and acquires the latest defect management information from one of the plurality of defect management reserved areas on the basis of the acquired location information.

9. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the rewritable area comprises a plurality of location information areas to store location information indicating a location of the defect management reserved area that stores the latest defect management information,

each of location information areas store identical location information, and
the acquisition unit acquires the location information from at least one of the plurality of location information areas.

10. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the location information area comprises a plurality of location information reserved areas, and

the acquisition unit acquires latest location

information from one of the plurality of location information reserved areas.

11. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein when the acquisition unit cannot acquire the location information from the location information area, the acquisition unit acquires latest defect management information by checking the plurality of defect management reserved areas contained in the defect management area in turn.

10 12. An information reproduction method for reproducing information from an information storage medium, which comprises a rewritable area, comprising:
acquiring latest defect management information used to manage defective areas on the rewritable areas from one of a plurality of defect management reserved areas contained in a defect management area on the rewritable area; and
reproducing user data from a user area on the rewritable area on the basis of the latest defect management information.

20 13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the rewritable area comprises a location information area to store location information indicating a location of the defect management reserved area that stores the latest defect management information, and
25 the location information is acquired from the location information area, and the latest defect

management information is acquired from one of the plurality of defect management reserved areas on the basis of the acquired location information.

14. A method according to claim 12, wherein the
5 rewritable area comprises a plurality of location information areas to store location information indicating a location of the defect management reserved area that stores the latest defect management information,

10 each of location information areas store identical location information, and

the location information is acquired from at least one of the plurality of location information areas.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein the location information area comprises a plurality of location information reserved areas, and

latest location information is acquired from one of the plurality of location information reserved areas.

20 16. A method according to claim 13, wherein when the location information cannot be acquired from the location information area, latest defect management information is acquired by checking the plurality of defect management reserved areas contained in the defect management area in turn.

25 17. An information recording method for recording information on an information storage medium, which

comprises a rewritable area, the rewritable area comprising a defect management area to store defect management information used to manage defective areas on the rewritable area, and the defect management area comprising first and second defect management reserved areas, the method comprising:

recording the defect management information on the first defect management reserved area in an initial state, and

10 transiting the defect management information to the second defect management reserved area at a predetermined timing.

15 18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the rewritable area comprises a location information area to store location information indicating a location of the defect management reserved area that stores the latest defect management information, and

the location information is recorded on the location information area.

20 19. A method according to claim 17, wherein the rewritable area comprises a plurality of location information areas to store location information indicating a location of the defect management reserved area that stores the latest defect management information, and

25 identical location information is recorded on each of location information areas.

20. A method according to claim 18, wherein the location information area comprises first and second location information reserved areas,

5 the location information is recorded on the first location information reserved area in an initial state, and

the location information is transited to the second location information reserved area at a predetermined timing.

10 21. A method according to claim 18, wherein the location information area comprises a plurality of location information reserved areas including first and second location information reserved areas,

15 the location information is recorded on the first location information reserved area in an initial state,

the location information is transited to the second location information reserved area at a predetermined timing, and

20 additional recording of user data is inhibited when all of the plurality of position information reserved areas are used upon repetition of transition of the location information.